

# An attitude of gratitude

Combined Federal Campaign gives employees a chance to make a difference

By Melissa Davis

## FOR EIGHT MONTHS,

the NASA Johnson Space Center family has experienced an outpouring of community support in response to the *Columbia* tragedy. Now, employees have a chance to say “thank” you in a big way through the JSC Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

The CFC is an annual fund-raising drive conducted by federal employees in their workplace each fall. Each year federal employees and military personnel raise millions of dollars through the CFC that benefit thousands of nonprofit charities.

The JSC CFC, which is the second-largest CFC in the Texas Gulf Coast Region, runs Oct. 14 through Nov. 14. This year's goal is \$580,000.

The theme for the CFC is “What Makes America Great.” The NASA family has benefited from much of that greatness following the *Columbia* tragedy, said Truda Furr, Human Resources Specialist and CFC Chairperson.

“When you consider your level of giving, please reflect on how the many charities and local communities gathered to help our NASA people in our time of need after Feb. 1,” she said. “Many of us saw firsthand the generous people that came together to support us. The stories are too numerous to share all of them.”

In addition to returning the support NASA received from a number of service agencies during the *Columbia* tragedy, employees never know when they will need such agencies for personal reasons.

“Why should we give? That is an often-asked question at Combined Federal Campaign time,” Deputy Center Director Randy Stone said. “The answer is simple: we are blessed with good jobs and it is the right thing to do. Most of us will never need any of the services funded by the CFC, but someday you might, and you will be glad you were generous.”

The CFC is a designation campaign, which means a person can designate a donation to one specific charity or as many as five different charities. There are more than 1,800 local, national and international charities listed in the CFC Agency Guide.

“I encourage each of you to examine the many ways you can make a difference in the lives of those around you, your community and your country,” said Lt. Gen. Jefferson D. Howell, Jr., JSC Center Director. “With your ongoing support, I am confident that together we can continue to make a difference by giving generously to this year's Combined Federal Campaign.”

Furr pointed out that, if every donor who contributed to the CFC in 2002 contributed an additional \$2 per week, the CFC would generate an additional \$1.1 million for charity.

“It's time we give back to the communities and charities that supported us,” she said. “So please, when your canvasser comes by your office, generously support this year's Combined Federal Campaign.”

Please visit <http://jscpeople.jsc.nasa.gov/cfc/> for more information about JSC's CFC.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FLIGHT CREW OPERATIONS

It's that time of year again – the Combined Federal Campaign is getting ready to kick off. We have the opportunity to help those in our community who are less fortunate than us and to give back to those in East Texas who gave so much to help us during the *Columbia* recovery effort.

We are definitely blessed to be part of the NASA family. We have shown time and again how we take care of one another in times of need. During this last year, our family grew.

I'd like to share a few examples of how we were supported by the community around us following the events of Feb. 1:

Strictly by the numbers, when the search was complete, more than 30,000 people participated. They covered 700,000 acres of difficult terrain on foot and recovered 39 percent of *Columbia* by weight – including critical hardware and debris that allowed us to determine the cause of the accident.

On a more personal level, Pilot “Buzz” Mier and Texas Forest Service helicopter crewman Charles Krenek gave their lives in support of the effort when their aircraft crashed into the dense Piney Woods forest of East Texas.

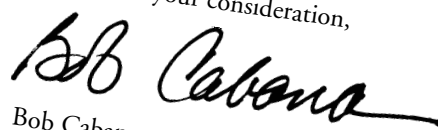
Pat Fulford was so focused on preparing hot meals for all the people engaged in the recovery effort that she was stunned to learn that the house she shared with husband Norm was consumed by fire. Undeterred by this personal setback, Pat steadfastly continued her tireless volunteer work, which she humbly described as “just a small contribution.” Her fellow volunteers at the command post then gallantly rose to the occasion and provided the Fulfords with badly needed support in their moment of need.

Roger and Belinda Gay, the owners of Fat Fred's Convenience Store and Restaurant in Hemphill, provided 3,000 meals each day for two weeks free of charge to feed the recovery team members. Roger was the commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post and Belinda was the president of the ladies auxiliary.

Finally, the inscription on the T-shirts worn by many of the *Columbia* Recovery team members summed it all up: “Their mission has become our mission.”

The Combined Federal Campaign is an excellent way for us to help repay the community for their tremendous support. You can even designate what specific organization in the community you want to receive your donation. Please take time to fill out your donation form and turn it in. Remember, it's not how much you give, but that you participate and show your support.

Thanks for your consideration,



Bob Cabana  
Director, Flight Crew Operations